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### STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AUGUST MEETING

**Meeting.** The State Board of Education met on August 4, 2016. The Board adopted the previously discussed College and Career Readiness definition, approved accreditation for Northwest Iowa Community College and Iowa Wesleyan University's educator preparation program, and heard updates on the Early Literacy Program implementation and the Iowa Reading Research Center. The Board also addressed the following:

**Science Cut Scores for Students with Disabilities.** The Department of Education has been exploring the best way to assess students with severe learning disabilities in academic areas, including science. In the 2015-2016 school year, an alternate assessment was successfully piloted with 816 students that addressed the Iowa Core Essential Elements in Science. The results of these assessments will be included within schools' current accountability system. Looking forward, the Department of Education will be working on how to best provide score reports, support for instruction based on these assessments, and Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) integration.

**The Role of the Board in Appeals of Open Enrollment Due to Bullying and Harassment.** The Board of Education heard information regarding concerns surrounding the Board's role in appeals of open enrollment due to bullying and harassment. While the Board has wide latitude to review appeals, they only have the authority to overturn local school board decisions in the case of definitively incorrect decisions. The Board is considering partnering with Iowa Association of School Boards (IASB) to provide training to local school boards on how to make these kinds of decisions. A subgroup of the Board of Education will meet this month with experts from around the state to generate further suggestions on the process of open enrollment due to bullying and harassment. These suggestions may include information on mandatory reporting at the school level, processes to put in place, and definitions of pertinent terms, as well as creating a plan of action for schools that have students wanting to open enroll due to this issue after the March 1 deadline.

**State Board Policy Priorities.** The Board chose not to revise the majority of their priorities for the 2016-2017 year, citing a continued need to focus on their previously established priorities. They did choose to update their goal on competency-based education to explicitly include reference to partnerships with community colleges.

**The Career and Technical Education Redesign.** The Board discussed the program approval process, programmatic offering and teaching requirements, and the affiliation structure between Area Education Agencies (AEAs), Partnerships, and local schools. For this process, the AEAs will convene partnerships, partnerships will design programs, and schools will implement those programs. Rules surrounding this topic are being developed and will be submitted to the State Board for approval in November.

**New Statewide Assessment Rollout.** The Smarter Balanced Assessment rollout is delayed to the 2017-2018 school year. In August, the Department of Education will ask the AEAs to request support in program implementation and the provision of professional learning on the assessment system's digital library, score report interpretation, and training trainers across the state. Below is the timeline the Department would like to follow:

- Fall 2016: Online modules available
- Winter 2016-2017: Face-to-face training with trainers across the state
- Spring 2017: Trainers go into districts to provide initial training to teachers

To complete these goals, the Department of Education will be retasking the Comprehensive Balanced Assessment Committee, which is made up of 25 members from AEAs, school districts, and local communities, into the Statewide Assessment Advisory Group. There will also be a Technical Assistance Committee, which will be recruited over the course of the next year. At this time, the department estimates the cost of the Smarter Balanced assessments will be \$20-\$24 per student.

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